

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review this application which has been amended after a careful consideration of the Examiner's comments and the references cited in the above-identified Office Action. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4-7 as being obvious over the combination of the Flory reference, U.S. 4,361,165, and the Johnson reference, U.S. 5,119,555. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more distinctly point out applicants' invention and claim 4 has been amended to maintain consistent terminology between the claims. Claims 1 and 4-7, as amended, are now considered to be in allowable form.

For example, there is no suggestion to combine the Flory and Johnson references and such combination does not meet the structure or function of applicants' claims. Specifically, the pin 60 of Johnson that the Examiner refers to as a shear pin, is actually loaded in tension and not shear. Thus, this reference actually teaches away from applicants' claims and does nothing to suggest a combination or rectify the shortcomings of the Flory reference. Further, the pins 52 of Flory are not members with reduced cross-section due to the head portion since that structure is non-functional as to operation in Flory, i.e. no reduced cross-section portion is involved in Flory as to shear loading. Thus, claims 1 and 7, as amended, are considered to be in allowable form along with claims 4-6 depending from claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-7, as amended and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance and a favorable action to that end and allowance of this application by the Examiner are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that clarification of any issue or comment herein would be helpful to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below for a telephonic interview or to arrange a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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